2	Fellows Property Master Pla		
Category I. Introduction and Background A. Park Purpose (#4)	 Request for clarification and distinction of what activities are being considered, especially under the "active recreation" category as the draft plan suggests that these activities should be "limited." The focus should of the Park Purpose should be preserving and protecting natural resources and the environment The design of the park of the park should be informed by current observable use of the area, which has included - informal athletic activities such as playing catch, people passing through the property while on walks, exercising their dogs. 	Staff Assessment	Final Recommendation
I. Introduction and Background B. Desired Future Visitor Experience (#1-3)	If passive and active recreation activities are mentioned in #1 then #2 and #3 should have possible activities for each category of activity.		

B. Desired Future Visitor Experience (#5)	 Signs should be limited in use, close the ground, made of natural materials in neutral tones. Innovative, low impact, low visual impact signage ideas to convey environmental information. Address the question "How much
	 Address the question How much is too much signage Model the park sign after the Big Chimneys Park sign which incorporates the history of the park and also doubles as an art piece.
	Answer the question of how environmental education or what aspect of environmental education will be prioritized in order to inform and limit sign use.
D – Property Description	Include – "Four exceptional mature trees on the property are designated as City Specimen Trees and are labeled. "
D – Property Description	 Clarify what pieces of the existing storm water structures we intend to maintain and/or not maintain. Clarify if the intent is to keep all
	three storm water structures mentioned – the foundation of

	the home, the well and an existing storm water structure.
D – Property Description	 Comment to emphasize the significance of the canopied natural forest on the north side of the property as it contains a disproportionate share of the ecological and biological diversity, and wildlife habitat, of the entire property.
D – Property Description	Explore options for restoration of deforested area. The deforested portion separates the two areas, is not health for the property, and is not attractive. Would like to see more of an emphasis on this.
D – Property Description	 Keep the forested corner of the park as a wildlife easement from one side of the neighborhood to the other. There is a particular interest in leaving the lower end of the property in the current, forested state to help absorb storm water and provide a natural forested area for educational and other purposes. This may also be the best use of land that abuts residential property on Fellows Court and Timber Lane.

D – Property Description	A significant portion of the "open and grass covered" part of the property is a strip approximately 30 feet wide. This area was deforested and cleared prior to the City acquiring the property, was never smoothed or graded, and grass was only planted after an erosion event. This grassy strip should undergo a process of ecological succession to return it to its	
	original forest condition. Consideration should be given to enrichment planting of pollinator-friendly native plants. The current old forest portion covers only about 25 percent of the Fellows Property but supports far more than that fraction of the biodiversity, wildlife,	
	ecological, and hydrological values of the property. If the now-deforested grassy strip were allowed to undergo natural forest regeneration, it is estimated that approximately one-third of the property would then be forested by natural forest.	

E – Park Designation		
L Tark Designation		
II – Description of the Conceptual Development Plan		
A. New Elements		
1. Park Access	 ADA accessible curb cut at Fellows Court and Parker Avenue Main access from Oak Street to be accessible to vehicles with grasscrete pavers Access from all 3 sides of park Combine 1 – Park Access and 6-Pathways A concrete pathway is needed to allow for wheelchair access to a main section of the park. 	
2. Interpretative Signage	As an education venue for the community, signage could be presented in a locked display case that will allow multiple subjects to be displayed. Habitat Restoration and/or high school students involved in sustainability education may want to put together displays. We lose an opportunity if only	

2 . Interpretative Signage	 static signage is used. Would like a rotating display Small signage of plants used for healing and nutrition by native people of this area. Opportunity to add signage or information about the 	
	historical nature of the property.	
3. Benches and Picnic Tables	 Comment – Benches and Benches and Picnic Tables can be combined into one item. Comment that Picnic Shelter can be removed A few benches placed within the park to relax. 	
4. Pathways	 Pathways should be of natural stone, dust, dirt or something fitting to the area and natural park. Any paving /hardscaping/ concrete / non-permeable surface should not be included, except curb areas if required by law. Biking is incompatible with the park 	

	purpose. Pathways should be
	natural and unobtrusive.
4. Pathways	Consolidate Pathways items into
	one category (Park Access,
	Pathways, Bike Path, Nature Trail,
	Equity and Accessibility)
	These combined points can state
	that access should be from all 3
	sides with at least 1 access point
	to be ADA accessible to reach the
	middle of the park.
4. Pathways	Request to figure out what type of
4. Tathways	pathways are wanted, how ADA
	accessibility and storm water
	management will impact the
	location, type and purpose of
	pathways.
4. Pathways	Pedestrian only pathways,
	surfaced with decomposable
	mulch or woodchips when
	possible. One hard
	surface/paved path to a
	central location, such as to an
	educational kiosk and/or picnic
	table at the site of the old
	Fellows House to meet ADA
	requirements. No paths should
	enter the remaining canopied
	natural forest section on the
	north side of the property in
	order to protect wildlife,
	order to protect wildlife,

	native plants, and ecological
	and hydrological processes.
4. Pathways	Paved paths for bikes should
	be avoided.
4. Pathways	Look at the woods adjacent to the Poplar Heights pool for ideas for natural landscaping for walking paths. These paths maintain the forested landscape while also making it usable for recreation. While the design may present ideas for how to integrate walking paths and seating areas in ways that enhance, rather than detract from, the natural
	landscape.
	·
5. Nature Trail	 Comment that the intended pathways are natural and this item could be combined with 6. Pathways. Recommendation to combine Nature Trail, Bike Path and Pathways.
	Address where the trail/pathway will go and what the purpose is under one line item.
6. Bike Path	Submitted Comment: "A bike path around the perimeter (which would have to be paved) would

	damage the main forest area on the north side of the property, and contradicts the idea of protecting natural habitat and wildlife."
6. Bike Path	 Comment that if the entrance off of Oak Street was wheelchair accessible then there could be hardscape path that goes around the perimeter of what was once the Fellows home. There could also be small garden in the middle of this bike path. This would give young riders a place to ride and wouldn't take up as much of or detract from the natural park. Comment to maintain a hardened trail along the perimeter.
6. Bike Path	Paved paths for bikes should be avoided. The paved path down Tripps Run from Oak Street, to the north of Oak Street Elementary School, provides nearby paved paths for safe practice by beginning bikers.
7. Urban Agriculture	Educational opportunity for Oak St. students
7. Urban Agriculture	"A clear plan and commitment needs to be established as to who

	will plant, weed, water and support the agriculture on an ongoing basis for the future. This is the greatest challenge to such projects that often rely on volunteers who may come and go."
7. Urban Agriculture	Comment – How can we determine what can be urban agriculture without knowing what is possible due to space constraints?
	Comment in response – we don't want to set a goal that cannot be met or does not meet expectations.
	Comment in response- Is there a way to know now what is possible without professionals advising what is possible?
	Comment that this is an aspirational plan and should be phrased in way that communicates that this what we would like to do.
7. Urban Agriculture	Comment that there seem to be two concepts:
	 Concept 1 - A planting area possibly run by group like Grow a Row FC; individual garden plots get messy due to maintenance

	and have fallen out of favor. Fellows Property may not even have the room to support this.
	Concept 2 – planting of edible trees/bushes. This can be combined with landscaping and the landscaping choices made and can be melded into the natural landscape of park.
	Suggestion - Plant varieties that are good for pollinators, provide food sources for wildlife.
	Suggestion - Allow for park visitors to pick edibles.
	Suggestion - Organizational run community garden with yield being donated to a food bank.
	 Counter comments in response: Comment to again emphasize the maintenance cost and time required for future maintenance and a set fund established for future maintenance. Comment that if a community garden is built a partnership will be required to maintain the garden.
7. Urban Agriculture	Question raised if urban agriculture is needed at this site.

7. Urban Agriculture	 Comment that Berman Park may be a better fit for community gardens and urban agriculture. While urban agriculture may be an appropriate use for part of the Fellows Property, the planning process should recognize that the wildlife values of the property might conflict with human food production. Deer fencing would be required and is not aesthetically pleasing, squirrel
	damage to crops is nearly impossible to prevent with trapping or other measures. Restoring nut-producing American chestnuts to the property is possible due to genetic breeding to produce blight resistant chestnut. American Chestnut Foundation provides these trees at no cost. Volunteers could be organized to assist with planting these trees.
7. Urban Agriculture	 Hands on Harvests, the parent organization of Grow a Row, will support a community or school garden of any type, as long as a portion of that garden is producing edibles that are being grown by

	people or is being donated to
	people who need increased
	access to fresh food. HOH can
	provide mentorship and
	supplies to gardeners, hands-
	on workshops, workdays, time
	and effort toward the creation
	of any such garden.
7. Urban Agriculture	The urban agriculture focus
	should be on native plants
	rather than community
	gardening
7. Urban Agriculture	Urban agriculture should
	demonstrate native species,
	reforestation and the recovery
	of the canopied forest that
	was on the property.
7. Urban Agriculture	Skeptical on the idea of urban
_	agriculture as he does not see
	how it fits into the concept of
	having as natural an area as
	possible.
	Concern over the limited
	available space for a
	community garden. A
	community garden may take
	up too much space and benefit
	too few people
8. Natural Play Area	Include a natural play area due to
	the popularity of the natural play
	area in Cherry Hill Park.

	a Comment to keep the children's	
	 Comment to keep the children's play area as natural as possible, especially with a large, traditional playground across the street at Oak Street Elementary. Natural play areas should be truly "natural." 	
8. Natural Play Area	An artificial play area with "mud table, tires, lumber, pots, pans, buckets, boulders," is not natural and does not keep with the environmental and ecological education benefits of the Fellows Property. The naturalness of the area, the trees, bushes, and topography of the area itself should be considered the playground/play area, for natural games of hide and seek, tag, etcetera.	
9. Equity and Accessibility	•	
10. Resource Education Area	 Combine Resource Education Area, Nature Trail and Performance Area Submitted Comment: "highly endorse the ideas for making the park a wildlife habitat with signage designating it as such 	

10. Resource Education Area	through the National Wildlife Federation. This will support the City's certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat with the NWF." Submitted comment: "Highly endorse the ideas for making the park a wildlife habitat with signage designating it as such through the National Wildlife Federation. This will support the City's certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat with the NWF."
10. Resource Education Area	Comment to look into the Master Plan for Howard E. Herman Stream Valley Park for the presence of an outdoor classroom element. If so, this prevents students from having to cross a busy street and could be a better location for a classroom element.
	Comment that this may not have been put in for budgetary reasons but may be a more viable option. Howard E. Herman is accessible through the pathway adjacent to the playground.
	Comment that this may not have happened due to adequate space when the purchase of a home to make room for this area did not

	This is something we plan to
	do in the near future.
	•
1. Lighting	Comment to not have lighting at
	all as it could promote the use of
	the park during non-operational
	hours.
	Counter Comment that Public
	Safety will look into the Mater
	Plan and will evaluate the
	planned lighting as this is a safety
	concern for first responders.
	Comment that some form of low
	lighting to allow for passersby to
	see activity in the park tends to
	deter gathering after hours,
	protect those using the path to
	travel between neighborhood
	streets even though the park
	closes are dark.
	Comment that groups with likely
	gather to observe fireflies;
	lighting may impact the activity
	but be necessary for safety.
	Sat Se Headsany for surety.
11. Lighting	Lighting should be minimized,
	both in and around the park,
	and should meet Dark Sky
	standards. The pathways
	should not be lighted at night
	citing disruption firefly mating
	behavior. Users should view

	firefly activity from the edges of the park.
2. Storm Water	Comment on the construction of rain gardens and their popularity in Lincoln Park.
	Comment that rain gardens provide an education opportunity to incorporates educational signs within the area to inform visitors of the hydrology cycle.
	Counter comment - Comment that rain gardens can be costly; the initial establishment, continued maintenance and improvements over the years should all be taken into consideration.
12. Storm Water	Comment that the goal is not to add so many storm water improvements to the property that it creates conflict with existing root structure or trees but instead the recommendation is made to use language that explicitly states that passive above ground systems take preference over any underground system that require cutting down of trees.

12. Storm Water	The stormwater infrastructure
	system added by the previous
	property owner are not
	required for the park and
	should be removed and not
	maintained. This will remove
	concerns that reforestation
	and tree roots associated with
	reforestation would damage
	the stormwater infrastructure.
	Forest cover provides is own
	stormwater control and
	compensates for and/or
	reduces the need for built
	stormwater infrastructure.
12. Storm Water	Stormwater and runoff need
	to be a priority as it will impact
	neighboring properties. One of
	the primary stormwater
	culverts does not properly
	drain and needs to be lowered
	and graded, as it is the source
	of standing water.
12. Storm Water	If stormwater is a concern,
	conservation landscaping
	should be used to mitigate
	stormwater. Habitat
	Restoration team will work
	toward better educating the
	community on the importance
	of using native plants and
	shrubs to help with
	sotrmwater mitigation as it is a

II – Description of the Conceptual Development Plan B. Enhancements	long term solution. If there is a way to incorporate this into the plan as an educational feature as well as a way to mitigate stormwater.
1. Trees	Submitted Comment to add— "Contiguous mulch beds among trees and shrubs, particularly around mature and Specimen trees, will be used as much as possible to support healthy soil structure and protect tree root systems. Fallen leaves will be left as natural mulch to provide nutrients around trees, shrubs and plants and overwintering habitat for insects."
1. Trees	Comment that City Arborist Charles Prince requests trees be added along Parker Avenue to provide a tree canopy.
1. Trees	Suggestion to emphasis the increased maintenance cost of this park to the Forestry budget with regards to maintenance of trees and invasive plants. Comment that this should be

	emphasized for future budgetary concerns.
1. Trees	Comment that Habitat Restoration would like to put Fellows Property on the regular rotation of volunteer activities. This can be done in the interim before construction begins. Fellows Property is ideal for
	volunteer events, especially for family volunteers as the work is kid-friendly.
1. Trees	Strongly suggests City replant the grassy area with trees - native oaks, willows, and native cherry -, which are keystone species and have the most wildlife benefits. The large grassy area is not a natural part of the property and should not be treated as such. Planting more of these native species returns the property to its natural state, and replaces any of the mature trees that may get lost over the years due to disease or weather events.
1. Trees	Maintaining mature trees to protect firefly population.

1. Trees	Based on the natural and
	educational focus of the plan,
	would to see a plan to
	conserve as much as possible
	of the wood/trunk of downed
	trees to allow children to play
	on or learn about the process
	of decay. This would be an
	essential feature of the nature
	education focus of the park.
	While this touches on
	conservation/landscape
	management plan for the park,
	it could be a component of
	thinking through the children's
	natural play area as well.
Shrubs and Other	
Greenspace	
II – Description of the	Suggestion that keeping a
Conceptual Development	statement within the document
Plan	regarding open space is
C. Open Space	important for public purposes.
	Counter comment that be specific
	with the intent of open space
	otherwise people will create their
	own meaning.
	Counter comment that this is not
	an enhancement as no additional
	Open Space is being created; is
	this more aligned with Park
	Themes?
L	

	Comment that this may be an connect unity to include.
	opportunity to include information on preservation and
	the value of preservation on the
	wildlife/environment (i.e. canopy
	cover helps to control heat in the
	·
	area, one oak tree can support 300 species of moths).
	Soo species of moths).
Overall Comments and	Comment to address the
Suggestions	anchor/big picture/big draw of
	Fellows Property.
	Comment in Response - this
	seems to be leaning toward one
	or many forms of Urban
	Agriculture.
	Comment - Is there one aspect
	that is more important? If so,
	how should it be addressed?
	Comment in Response - this
	seems to be Natural Play area
	combined with Urban Agriculture
	and an educational
	setting/resource area/outdoor
	education area
	Comment that 7. Urban
	Agriculture, 8. Natural Play Area
	and 12. Resource Education Area
	should be the guiding principles
	of the property.
	Comment in Response - this
	seems to be what citizens
	envision for this park – an
	educational, family oriented park.
	Caucational, failing offences park.

Additional Comments and Suggestions	Stacey Evers from Grow a Row FC Co-Chair of the Urban Agriculture Workgroup of the Fairfax Food Council would like to be included in further planning.	
	Recommendation to use Jeremy Edwards inventory of Fellows Property which documents which trees were removed under his tenure. Amy Crumpton will able to provide this document.	
Firefly Habitat	 Would like to see an emphasis on preserving as much of the natural habitat of the fireflies as possible. • 	

Other Suggested Items			
Item	Comments Received	Staff Assessment	Final Recommendation
Nature Center	 Interest in building a small nature center with programing offered on weekends. Acknowledgement that funds would need to be found to construct and staff this center. Even if a nature center cannot be funded, building such a center into the park plans would be important to preserve a location for one. 		
User Behavior Signs	Comment that signs governing user behavior are needed immediately citing user behavior that can damage the area.		

	 Dog on leash signs and dog waste pick-up should be placed at a few common entry points. Area closed for ecological restoration signs are needed to prevent damage to the old forested area on the north side of the property where trails have developed.
User Behavior Signs	Concern raised over current activities in the park. Recently, a private citizen removing a felled tree with a chainsaw to create an area to play Frisbee with his dog. A citizen regularly uses the park to play fetch with an off leash dog. On one occasion, this startled a deer on the property that then jumped over a fence into a neighboring yard. Strong suggestion to place signs at the edge of the forested portion "Area under ecological restoration – please stay out."
Dog Park	Suggestion of small fenced in area for a dog park.
Fellows Family Legacy	Inquiry into what is being done to preserve the Fellows family history and

	share their story at this site.	
Retaining Wall	Repair and restore the low retaining wall that runs parallel to Oak Street rather than replace it with a more modern but likely less aesthetically pleasing structure such as a concrete wall.	
Gazebo	Options for community events with a gazebo area where the existing house foundation is located.	
Unifying Vision	Park plan lacks a unifying vision	

Removed Items			
Category	Comments Received	Staff Assessment	Final Recommendation
II – Description of the Conceptual Development Plan A. New Elements			
Benches	 Comment – Benches and Benches and Picnic Tables can be combined into one item. Comment that Picnic Shelter can be removed 		
Picnic Shelter	Comment that having a venue to hold large, potentially loud, gatherings goes against the general desired feel of the park		

	and doesn't closely align with the
	park purpose.
	Comment that both Crossman and Cavalier, somewhat more natural parks, do not have shelters.
	Comment that parking will be difficult and therefore Fellows Property may not be suited for a shelter. Reference to difficulty parking at Roberts Park for a shelter rental.
	Comment that a shelter is not desirable at this location.
Mount Bike Pump Track	Submitted Comment: "A 'mountain biking pump track' is also something new, suggesting that the Advisory Board still has not given up on ideas of "active recreation," which I thought they had, based on citizen and neighbor input."
	Comment that this a little more active than the intended park use and can be very damaging to the park. Reference made to damage caused to trees at Howard Herman when it became a popular mountain biking spot. Habitat Restoration worked on repairing some of the damage.

Pond	 Comment that size of the park cannot accommodate this feature. Comment that an artificial pong does not feel natural. Comment that this a logistical challenge. Comment that this a safety issue and would need to be fenced in.
Open Space	Comment that this is not needed at the intention of the park is to keep it as open and natural as possible.
Bike Path	 Comment that this is not an item that has support from the Board. Comment that the item can always be included should the community cite a need. Biking trails are not suitable for the park plan. Biking to the park is fine but there should be no additional paved paths to accommodate bikers.
Performance Area	Submitted Comment: "An outdoor music-performance venue was also an idea that I thought had been dropped; it is incompatible with the other 'natural' goals for the park, which include 'dark' and 'quiet'."

	Comment that something of this nature can be merged with the Resource Education Area.
Dog Park	Comment that dog parks cannot be in areas where storm water needs to be taken into consideration as pollution becomes a concern.
	 Comment that a dog park is no longer a community need. Keep the area as natural as possible. Utilize the natural feel and appeal instead of adding dog parks or playgrounds
Athletic Field	 Comment that a dog park is no longer a community need. Comment that the park is not
	large enough to accommodate an athletic field.
Invasive and Problematic Plant Removal	Suggestion to edit the description to read — "Invasive plants such as poison ivy (recommendation to strike "poison ivy") and English ivy will be removed and replaced with appropriate plantings or grass. Problematic plants such native poison ivy will be managed to ensure least exposure to the public."

	Suggestion to remove the term "invasive" and replace with a term that aligns with current NRPA Equity Language Guide Support to return "Invasive and Problematic Plant Removal" to the draft. Without maintenance, a thick underbrush makes walking through the property difficult. Underbrush should be periodically thinned. If the Garden Club or school groups wanted to try to introduce more desirable species, those efforts should be encouraged and supported.
Suggestion to Add: Certification as a Wildlife Habitat	 Suggestion to add the description as follows: "The City, through the auspices of its Habitat Restoration Team, will seek to certify the new park as a wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. Berman, Cherry Hill, Crossman, Herman, Madison, and Lincoln parks are currently certified." Would like the property to receive a Wildlife Habitat Certification at some point. This item is listed as an item removed.